

20 College Libraries Open in 20 weeks

How did twelve new Ontario community colleges — three with two campuses — manage within a period of five months to open libraries complete with basic book collections?

Well, it was done. And done well; through the Ontario Technical Colleges Libraries Project, designed to select, purchase, catalogue, process, and deliver books and periodicals to the new colleges, as well as the five others already in existence.

Initially, a McMaster University librarian who had assumed a teaching post at Seneca College requested McMaster's help in setting up a new library. Professor W. B. Ready, University Librarian at McMaster, agreed; when the news got out, the other colleges requested and received the same help.

The first step was the development of a recommended, comprehensive selection list in the Behavioral Sciences and Science and Technology. Basic bibliographies including *"The Junior College Library Collection"*, a list which combines the efforts of 87 colleges and 11 editors, were used. The Humanities material was all personally selected by Professor Ready.

In dollar value the basic collection was divided into the following proportions: 60% Science and Technology; 15% Behavioral Sciences; 25% Humanities.

Colleges participated at four different financial levels, \$20,000, \$40,000, \$60,000, and \$80,000. They were free to choose their financial level of participation and their subject area of concentration.

The material was purchased almost entirely through three agents, one in England and two in the United States. The place of publication of a book was the main factor in deciding whether it should be ordered from an English or American agent. A main entry catalogue card was ordered for each book. Library of Congress was the system used for classification.

On arrival, the books were processed and card catalogues were created for each college. This included author, title, subject, shelf list, and accession files. Each catalogue was filed complete for use by each library and delivered to the respective colleges.

In addition, a computer-made union catalogue has been created, complete with a holdings record of all the material acquired through participation in this project. This consists of three book catalogues; author, title, and subject, which are to be distributed to the participating libraries. The Toronto-based colleges also report their holdings to the Metropolitan Bibliographic Centre.

Continued on page 48

PREVIEWS

(Continued from page 47)

1968. There are some poems about the North written when he was there on a grant in 1967, and several of Cuba and Mexico. There are also poems dealing with political events of the earlier months of this year.

Pub. Date: September 28

Heaven Take My Hand

David Weisstub

McClelland & Stewart cl. \$3.95

This is a varied set of poems by David Weisstub but the prevailing mood and theme of most of them is Jewish. There is a lot of reference to Jewish history and to the present State of Israel. There are also quite a few with a definite Canadian image in mind, especially of the North. Included at the end is a glossary of Hebrew terms used in the poems.

J. M. ●

OFF THE SHELF

(Continued from page 33)

Considering the short time involved, the project must be deemed a success. By October 1967, only a month after their opening, the colleges had 90% of their books delivered. Unfortunately, it was not possible to supply all the catalogue cards until later.

This project led to the birth of the College Bibliocentre, 101 Gerrard Street, Toronto, established in April 1968, as a permanent centre to continue purchasing, cataloguing, processing, and delivering books for the colleges originally involved in the project. Book selection at present is done by the individual colleges.

I have briefly described here a project which has been too recently completed to have gained much publicity among librarians not involved in it. A complete description will be available in the next few months in the professional library and university periodicals. ●

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